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Letter dated 26 August 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am enclosing herewith a document on the smuggling of narcotics and ammunition by the members of the Albanian national minority originating in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 109 of the provisional agenda and of the Economic and Social Council under agenda item 14 (d).

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
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Annex

Smuggling of narcotics and ammunition by the members of the Albanian national minority originating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

One of the most powerful smuggling networks in Europe, in addition to the Iranian and Libyan one, is a Yugoslav one consisting of narcotics smugglers made up exclusively of members of Albanian national minority. For example, in Switzerland and Belgium, Albanian network of narcotics smugglers totally suppressed the Iranian and Libyan one.

According to the statement of the Director of a specialized unit of the Slovakian Ministry of the Interior from the narcotics department, Lieutenant Igor Košćalo, 80 per cent of narcotics in Slovakia are marketed by Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija.

In southern parts of Germany, according to the President of the Syndicate of German police, Conrad Freiberg, Albanian gangs from Kosovo and Metohija have already assumed a leading role from the Kurds in illegal narcotics deals.

The official authorities in the FR of Yugoslavia have been informed through the Interpol of the Western European countries that 143 FRY nationals have been arrested in their countries on charges of smuggling and illegally trading in narcotics, out of which there are 135 members of Albanian national minority from Kosovo and Metohija. From these persons, 224 kg of heroine, 9 kg 69 g of cocaine, 3,100 kg of hashish and 2 kg of marijuana have been seized.

In 1991, the Yugoslav side was informed by the Swiss police that within their operation of arresting narcotics smugglers (operation "Benjamin"), 334 members of Albanian national minority have been arrested. In Italy, there have also been two major operations aimed at arresting drug dealers, members of Albanian national minority (operations "Primo" and "Black Man").

For example, as an illustration of their share in smuggling narcotics at the international level, on 13 May 1998 in Lausanne, Switzerland, Musa Rifat, age 40, an Albanian from Kosovo and Metohija, was put on trial. He has been charged with smuggling and trafficking 465 kg of heroin in the 1992-1995 period, estimated value 15 million Swiss Franks. He was proclaimed a

"mastermind of the Kosovo connection". In the investigation, Musa Rifat allegedly cooperated with the attorney and police, explained the details of his illegal shipments and admitted to "only" 177 kg of heroin.

Also, Italian police identified Dobroluk Šefčet, an Albanian from Kosovska Mitrovica, as a major heroin supplier in Italy. He engaged the members of his family in the international smuggling channels. His brother, a.k.a. "Karcel", married to a Brasilian, is an importer of Brazilian beer and uses his company for money laundering from heroin sales.

Narcotics and arms smuggling from Albania to Macedonia and Kosovo and Metohija started in 1992 which coincided with the introduction of economic sanctions against the FR of Yugoslavia. The prevailing economic conditions in Albania resulted in the state institutions being involved in crime. Drug proceeds were laundered many times over in the notorious system of "pyramides", promoted personally by President Sali Berisha himself in 1992. It coincided with the arrival and deployment of NATO troops on the Albanian-Macedonian border.

As a result, some Albanian families from Montenegro, northern Albania, Kosovo and Metohija, Macedonia and Greece quickly gained personal wealth. Under the guise of humanitarian assistance and food and cigarette shipments, narcotics and arms were smuggled in.

Due to quick financial gains and enormous influx of money, according to the power they enjoyed, some Albanian families started to resemble Columbian cartels. Their power and business were taken to Valona port where even larger quantities of narcotics and arms started to arrive. Proceeds from drug deals found their way to legal western business circles.

A portion of smuggled narcotics is stored in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija from where it is being distributed to consumers in the FR of Yugoslavia.

In 1995, 30 kg of heroin were taken from persons belonging to Albanian national minority in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. Against 49 persons of Albanian national minority, criminal charges were brought for the criminal act of illegal production and trade in narcotics from Article 245 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia and a criminal act of enabling consumption of narcotics from Article 246 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia.

1. On 8 January 1995 in Vranje, Nebat Bekteši, of father Sadik, born 10 December 1940 in Crnotrnac, municipality of Preševo, Hajeredin Ibrahimi, of father Vebija, born 13 December 1964 in Oraovica, municipality of Preševo, Ćajilj Šabani, of father Nehat, born 4 May 1962 in Preševo, Suad Ibrahimi, of father Huljusi, born 14 March 1958 in Preševo, Besnik Velin, of father Feni, born 2 January 1974 in Preševo, Florin Daljipi, of father Sabri, born 14 October 1973 in Preševo, Luan Abdulahu, of father Sutki, born on 4 May 1975 in Preševo and Rahman Muhadini, of father Ejup, born 13 February 1950 in Oraovica, municipality of Preševo were arrested and 1,000 g of heroin were seized from them.

2. On 3 February 1995, in Gnjilane, Fadilj Osmani, of father Osman, born 10 January 1969 in Gmince village, municipality of Gnjilane was arrested and 200 g of heroin were taken from him.

3. On 10 February 1995 in Uroševac, Ejup Ademi of father Isa, born 5 May 1958 in Balić village, municipality of Uroševac was arrested, and 1,000 g of heroin were impounded from him.

4. On 16 February 1995 in Gnjilane, Zejdus Rasimi of father Džemailj, born 15 March 1969 in Zarbince village, municipality of Bujanovac, Fatmir Marići, of father Bahri, born 14 May 1967, in Busolata village, municipality of Kosovska Kamenica and Bajtulah Kurteši, of father Isak, born 28 April 1968 in Gnjilane, were arrested and 5,000 g of heroin were impounded from them.

5. On 6 April 1995, in Priština. Ćajilj Halpi of father Selvet, born 25 May 1957 in Bogovina village, municipality of Tetovo was arrested and 5,964 g of heroin were impounded from him.

6. On 29 May 1995 in Priština, Sadrija Redžepi of father Kadrije, born 23 February 1947 in Klobukar village, municipality of Priština, was arrested and 500 g of heroin were taken from him.

7. On 27 July 1995 in Gnjilane, Idriz Musliju, of father Imer, born 5 February 1958 in Gnjilane, Omer Erdjeljan of father Mahmut born 3 February 1952 in Giljbaši village, Turkey and Sabri Ibrahimi, of father Muharem born 10 June 1964 in Gnjilane were arrested and 973 g of heroin were taken from them.

8. On 2 August 1995 in Vranje, Refik Haljiti, of father Redžep, born 15 January 1940 in Muhovac village, municipality of Bujanovac was arrested and 815 g of heroine were taken from him.

9. On 30 August 1995 in Priština, Samir Bunjaku of father Djevdet, born 23 January 1967 in Gnjilane, Baškim Morina of father Hehmi, born 11 February 1965 in Gnjilane and Hadil Emini of father Murtez, born 20 December 1960 in Vrančić village, municipality of Gnjilane were arrested and 5,107 g of heroin were impounded from them.

10. On 22 October 1995 in Uroševac, Redžep Veselji, of father Isen born 28 March 1950 in Taniševica, municipality of Skoplje, was arrested and 2,000 g of heroin were impounded from him.

In 1996, 21 kg and 622 g of heroin were taken from persons belonging to Albanian national minority in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija and criminal charges were brought against 51 persons of Albanian national minority for the criminal act of illegal production and trafficking in narcotics from Article 245 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia and a criminal act of enabling consumption of narcotics from Article 246 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia.

1. On 1 January 1996 in Prizren, Šefćet Ademi from Priština and Remzi Jahiri from Priština were arrested and 580 g of heroin were impounded from them.

2. On 17 February 1996 in Priština, Šaip Haziri of father Remzi, born 25 February 1951 in Smira village, municipality of Kosovska Vitina and Ismet Pira, of father Isuf, born 2 June 1964 in Požaranje village, municipality of Kosovska Vitina were arrested and 1,893 g of heroin was taken from them.

3. On 3 April 1996 in Peć, Valjdet Belegu of father Šemsedin, born 5 February 1967 in Peć and 300 g of heroin were taken from him.

4. On 27 April 1996 in Priština, Idriz Halji of father Emin, born 13 November 1963 in Rimanište village, municipality of Priština was arrested and 3,040 g of heroin was taken from him.

5. On 14 July 1996 in Priština, Ismet Haljiti of father Haljit born 1 June 1967 in Preševo was arrested and 4,820 g of heroin were taken from him.

6. On 14 July 1996 in Priština, Adem Kalač of father Ćazim born 5 December 1959 in Peć and Merita Kalač, of father Davit born 21 January 1970 in Priština, were arrested and 933 g of heroin were taken from him.

7. On 28 October 1996 in Vranje, Džabir Alili, of father Memet born 3 April 1958 in Veliki Trnovac village, municipality of Bujanovac and Menderes Fetahi, of father Memet, born 15 May 1961 in Veliki Trnovac, municipality of Bujanovac, were arrested and 418.5 g of heroin were taken from them.

8. On 5 November 1996, in Priština, Kadrija Murtezi of father Šefkija, born 7 May 1960 in Firaja village, municipality of Štrpce, Akija Isljami of father Šukrija, born 9 June 1960 in Bušica village, municipality of Kosovska Vitina and Murtezi Januza, of father Šukrija, born 29 July 1963 in Firaja village, municipality of Štrpce were arrested and 5,712 g of heroin were impounded.

9. On 6 November 1996, on GP "Gradina" Jakub Stubla, of father Ahmet born 1 July 1960, in Halabak village, municipality of Podujevo was arrested and 6,500 g of heroin was impounded.

10. On 19 November 1996, on border crossing "Gradina", Naser Belegu of father Šemsedin born 27 February 1958 in Peć was arrested. That person was a major organizer and was in possession of 190 kg of heroin, taken at border crossing "Gradina" on 13 October 1996 from a national of the Republic of Slovenia, Osel Marko who was transporting this narcotic from Bulgaria with the assistance of Naser Belegu.

11. On 27 December 1996 in Priština, Avdilj Sejdinovski, of father Haljilj, born 4 July 1954 in Tisovica village, municipality of Skoplje and Isa Ismailj, of father Abedin born 10 February 1959 in Skoplje were arrested and 1,801 g heroin were impounded from them.

In 1997, 20 kg and 630 g of heroin were taken from persons belonging to Albanian national minority in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija and criminal charges were brought against 71 persons of Albanian national minority for the criminal act of illegal production and trafficking in narcotics from Article 245 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia and a criminal act of enabling consumption of narcotics from Article 246 of the Criminal Law of the FR of Yugoslavia.

1. On 23 January 1997 in Priština, Ramadan Huseini of father Ćamilj, born 24 June 1969 in Bibaj village, municipality of Uroševac, Avnija Paljoja of father Liman born 19 November 1967 in Istambul, Turkey and Ferat Mehmeti, of father Ramadan, born 19 August 1957 in Trpezi village, municipality of Kosovska Vitina, were arrested and 4,997 g of heroin were impounded.

2. On 8 April 1997, in Uroševac, Tefik Saljihi of father Baftija, born 5 January 1962 in Trstenik village, municipality of Vitina and Fatmir Abdulahu, of father Bećir, born 28 September 1961 in Biba village, municipality of Uroševac were arrested and 1,000 g of heroin were impounded from them.

3. On 8 May 1997, in Priština, Fljorim Kriezi, of father Redžep, born on 7 October 1962 in Gnjilane was arrested and 887 g of heroin were impounded from him.

4. On 21 May 1997 in Gnjilane, Besim Seljimi born 31 May 1979 in Uroševac was arrested and 315 g of heroin was impounded from him.

5. On 27 May 1997 in Gnjilane, Šaip Dželji, born 25 June 1964 in Raka village, municipality of Uroševac, Arsim Hašani, born 21 April 1969 in Prizren and Nehat Bilibani, born on 21 March 1963 in Prizren were arrested and 540 g of heroin were impounded from them.

6. On 27 May 1997 in Priština, Gani Sadiku of father Sait, born 15 October 1943 in Oraovica village, municipality of Preševo and Seljadim Ibrahimi of father Demir, born 23 February 1953 in Ariljevce village, municipality of Preševo were arrested and 1,463 g of heroin were impounded.

7.On 30 July 1997, in Vranje, Abdulahu Murati of father Muarem, born 15 December 1950 in village Donja Lapaštica, municipality of Podujevo was arrested and 7,137 g of heroin were impounded from him.

8. On 16 October 1997, in Priština, Baškim Hasani of father Redžep, born 11 May 1961 in Gnjilane and Nazmi Jašari, of father Šerif, born 21 January 1973 in village Reljance, municipality of Suva Reka were arrested and 2,031 g of heroin were taken from them.

9. On 3 December 1997 in Smederevo, Asan Iseni of father Tefik, born 20 March 1943 in Gnjilane, Sevdjo Iseni of father Ramadan, born 19 June 1954

in Gnjilane and Serbez Iseni of father Asan, born 1 March 1973 in Gnjilane, were arrested and 376 g of heroin were taken from them.

The most striking examples of smuggling of narcotics by the members of Albanian national minority in 1998 are as follows:

1. On 13 March 1998 in Belgrade, Ismet Osmani of father Ali, born 1 June 1950 in Uroševac was arrested and 3,767.52 g of cocaine were taken from him.

2. On 28 March 1998 in Priština, Nazim Haljilji, of father Hamid, born 30 August 1961 in Gnjilane, Ismet Mustafi of father Osman, born 19 July 1962 in Gnjilane and Sebuš Kastrati, of father Musa, born 24 June 1968 in Gnjilane were arrested and 2,003 g of heroine were taken from them.

3. On 4 June 1998, on border crossing "Gradina", Remzi Ahmeti, born 18 April 1957 in Kravarica village, municipality of Gnjilane. He was arrested in an attempt to smuggle in 14 kg of heroine hidden in the trunk of his car, to the FR of Yugoslavia.

In 1998, in addition to these three cases of smuggling narcotics, there were no major seizures due to anti-terrorist activity of the law enforcement officers. Albanian separatist shifted drug-related smuggling activities to other European countries. The most striking examples follow:

On 19 and 21 August 1998, Austrian state television (ORF) showed three trailer trucks impounded on Slovenian-Austrian border. There were 2 tons of marijuana valued at 80 million Schillings (11.5 million Deutsche Marks). The trailer trucks came from Albania.

In June 1999, 60 Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija were arrested in Spain on charges of illegal trade and smuggling of narcotics.

Greek security authorities on 19 July 1998 impounded 1,276 kg of hashish on border crossing Kakavia in a cooler truck from Albania from Fiera-Albania.

On 24 July 1998, at the same border crossing, the shipment of 720 kg and 40 g hashish was intercepted. Those were hidden in a vehicle from Valona-Albania.

In the region of Louts Prevez, on 26 July 1998, 508 kg of hashish were impounded.

On 13 August 1998, in the border area of Kipi-Evros, 26 kg and 100 g of heroin were impounded, hidden in a petrol tank of "Mercedes" vehicle from Tirana-Albania.

On 20 August 1998, Macedonian police impounded 72.3 kg heroin in Strumica, hidden in a truck and arrested three Albanians. According to police sources, the drug was intended for Western European markets.

Italian "Interpol" informed the Yugoslav official authorities on 11 January 1999, that within "Ceska" operation, conducted by the central Drug Department, the following persons were arrested: Hemmer Michal, born 10 September 1964 in Turnovo (Czech Republic) and Okweika Walemar, born 4 May 1972, who were in possession of 47 kg of heroin.

As persons in charge of organizing shipment of impounded heroin, the following persons were arrested on 16 and 17 June 1998: Izet Beqiri, born 15 April 1964 in Pantina, Yugoslavia and Bashkin Neziri, born 20 February 1962 in Peć.

On 18 July 1999, the Czeck police informed that in the night between 14 and 15 July their police arrested 3 Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija and impounded 30 kg of heroin.

The police of Western European countries claim that they find it difficult to crack Albanian gangs due to their specific "family and patriarchal" closely-knit structure which practically prevents outside infiltration. In addition to this, a source from the German Federal Crimes Bureau, states that:"Ethnic Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija represent the most violent and most pervasive group engaged in illegal drug trade in the streets of Western European countries".

In the period from November 1997 to August 1999, in the Republic of Serbia, 156 kg of marijuana were seized on the roads from Montenegro, taken in 27 operations. In this period, marijuana was taken from vehicles, trains, buses and passenger cars. A portion of this quantity was seized also in Belgrade, Subotica, Kraljevo and other towns of Serbia. The impounded marijuana was purchased in Montenegro in places populated by Albanian population in Tuzi, Ulcinj, etc.

Marijuana sold by Albanians from Montenegro and Albania is grown at the banks of the Skhoder Lake. The seed is of top quality and is purchased in the Netherlands. After the seizure, the marijuana was examined by drug experts who established that all quantities are of the same quality and quantity.

According to quality, this kind marijuana called "Albanian lady" in the streets is equal to Mexican "Sensamile". It contains a large quantity of psycho-active substances.

The members of Albanian national minority are being illegally armed in the territory of Kosovo and Metohija. The arms are illegally brought in by individuals or organized groups from Albania, Macedonia and other parts of the former SFR of Yugoslavia.

Austrian and Italian police, with the approval of other European police authorities within international organizations claim, as has been confirmed by a specialized organization for combatting drug trade in USA, that Kosmet Albanians trade drugs for the most sophisticated arms later used in Kosovo and Metohija.

In addition to arms for drug deals, another source for arms purchases are illegal taxes - mostly 3 per cent of salaries from each Albanian working abroad, including those who as false asylum seekers live in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Scandinavian and other countries.

Funds from Islamic fundamentalists sent to Kosovo were redirected to Albania. The money was used to buy narcotics whose sales provided enormous profits. Money obtained in that way required many eminent banks for money laundering.

As mentioned above, a part of that dirty money has been used by the Albanian family clans and part for the purchase of military equipment. The profits from the drug deals have made it possible for the so-called "KLA" to buy such sophisticated equipment as satellites for monitoring the movements and interception of the communications of the Yugoslav Army. Also, their weapons arsenals included guided missiles, light cannons, personnel carriers, anti-tank guns, etc. The available information indicates that 30,000 rifles were purchased on the "black" markets of Europe and the world to cater for the needs of the "KLA".